



# Sam Brownback

UNITED STATES SENATOR ■ KANSAS

303 Hart Senate Office Building • Washington DC 20510 • (202) 224-8950

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CONTACT ERIK HOTMIRE

## **BROWNBACK, COLLEAGUES CALL FOR U.S. FARM AID TO RUSSIA**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback and several Senate colleagues today sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, suggesting that the U.S. send to Russia agriculture commodities as a result of their food shortage.

“We are writing to express our strong support for a humanitarian food aid package to Russia,” the letter said. “As you know, recent reports from U.S. experts in Russia indicate that the country will likely face a shortfall of between 7.5 and 9.5 million tonnes of grain as well as a shortage of 250,000 tonnes of meat.

“We understand that there are concerns about potential misuse of a substantial food aid package. However, as your agency recently testified before the House Agriculture Committee – there are key monitoring safeguards in place to ensure proper distribution and use of future food aid packages. We support the strictest possible precautionary measures in overseeing the distribution of this aid package and ask that you move forward with its development.

“We strongly urge you to utilize the authority Congress has extended and move immediately to make food aid – including wheat, pork and beef – available to Russia. Thank you for your attention to this matter,” the letter stated.

Members signing the letter include Sens. John Ashcroft, Rod Grams, Byron Dorgan, Conrad Burns, Mike Crapo, Larry Craig, Russ Feingold, and Gordon Smith.

Brownback is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The letter follows in one page.